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| 09/504,740 | 02/16/2000 | Takeo Nishijima | 450100-02317 | 6292 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O | |
| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| 2616 | |

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 09/504,740 | NISHIJIMA ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Christopher O. Onuaku | 2616 | |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *26 July 2004*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-20* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Applicant argues that neither Sugiyama, Katsuki, Kono or Yamamoto discloses a "dividing a memory into a plurality of blocks, said plurality of blocks being equal to plurality of video images supplied from each of plurality of input data streams" Examiner disagrees..

Sugiyama et al clearly discloses in Fig.1, conditioning keys 24; frame memory 13, and memory controller 16 which is controlled by the system controller 15; col.3, line 42 to col.4, line 8 and col.4, lines 45-64. The conditioning keys 24 set several modes, e.g., for selecting one of a single-frame print mode and multi-frame print modes, for controlling the quality the quality of image. When the single-frame print mode is selected, video data of an image is written as one frame in the frame memory 13. In the multi-frame print modes, one frame is sectioned into a plurality of sub-frames, e.g., four, nine or sixteen sub-frames, arranged in a matrix, and video data of a plurality of images is written in the frame memory 13 such that each sub-frame is assigned to one of the plurality of images; the memory controller 16 controls the frame memory 13 in accordance with condition data stored in the memory 15a of the system controller 15. Fig.3 shows an example of a frame image divided into four blocks/sections by the conditioning keys 24 based on the conditioning data stored in the memory 15a of the

system controller 15, and stored in the frame memory 13 sectioned into four memory locations S11, S12, S21, and S22.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4,10-14&18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al (US 5,633,723).

Regarding claim 1, Sugiyama et al disclose a video printer for making a hard copy from a video signal input from a video tape recorder (VTR), including a video printer which facilitates deleting an image displayed on a monitor in an entire area, or in a section of a frame by muting the video data with predetermined mute data, comprising:

a) composite video image generating means for generating reduced signal video images, each comprising less than a complete screen by reducing the number of pixels to be displayed of each of a plurality of video images supplied from frames of each of a plurality of input data stream, a frame from only one of each of the plurality of input data stream being supplied at a time, and generating a composite video image by compositing the generated reduced video images in a substantially non-overlapping

manner (see Fig.1,3&4, the conditioning keys 24, system controller 15, memory controller 16, selector 17; col.4, line 45 to col.6, line 18);

b) additional information generating means for generating additional information for each of the supplied video images (see Fig.1, character input keys 25; ; col.5, line 50 to col.6, line 5);

c) dividing means for dividing a memory of the recording apparatus into a plurality of blocks, the plurality of blocks being equal to the plurality of video images supplied from each of the plurality of input data streams (see Fig.1, conditioning keys 24; frame memory 13, and memory controller 16 which is controlled by the system controller 15; col.3, line 42 to col.4, line 8 and col.4, lines 45-64), here the conditioning keys 24 set several modes, e.g., for selecting one of a single-frame print mode and multi-frame print modes, for controlling the quality the quality of image. In the multi-frame print modes, one frame is sectioned into a plurality of sub-frames, e.g., four, nine or sixteen sub-frames, arranged in a matrix, and video data of a plurality of images is written in the frame memory 13 such that each sub-frame is assigned to one of the plurality of images; the memory controller 16 controls the frame memory 13 in accordance with condition data stored in the memory 15a of the system controller 15. And Fig.3 shows an example of a frame image divided into four blocks/sections by the conditioning keys 24 based on the conditioning data stored in the memory 15a of the system controller 15 and stored in the frame memory 13 sectioned into four memory locations S11, S12, S21, and S22;

d) recording means for recording the composite video image and the additional information onto a predetermined recording medium in such a manner of maintaining the correspondence between each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image and each additional information (see Fig.1, recording medium 23; col.5, line 63 to col.6, line 18).

Sugiyama et al fail to disclose recording mode switching means for switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of the video images when a predetermined condition for the one of the video images is met.

Katsuki et al teach a recording apparatus, a recording/reproducing apparatus and a recording medium capable of recording video-signal data and audio-signal data into a recording medium of a predetermined type, being well applicable to equipment such as a video camera, comprising video controller 38, and a number of recording modes, including normal recording mode and stretched-recording mode, wherein in accordance with a detected size of a free area left in the buffer memory unit 32, video camera is switched from the normal recording mode to a mode of the stretched-recording mode by the video controller 38 (see Fig. 5A,5B,9A&9B; col.23, line 42 to col.26, line 14). Here Katsuki teaches the principle of changing from one recording mode to another based on the condition, for example, that the size of a free recording area remaining in a recording medium (e.g., disc 51 of Fig.5) for recording video data and audio data is judged to be equal to or smaller than a predetermined value.

It, therefore, would have been obvious to modify Sugiyama with a recording mode switching means which is capable of switching from one recording mode to another recording mode on the basis of a predetermined condition, as taught by Katsuki, in order, perhaps to satisfy a user's special recording condition, including for example, switching the recording from recording the composite video image to a full recording mode for recording one of the video images when a predetermined condition for the one of the video images is met.

Regarding claim 2, Sugiyama discloses wherein the composite video image generating means performs a predetermined image compression to a video image obtained by combining the reduced video images and outputs the compressed video image as a composite video image (see Fig.1, conditioning keys 24; col.4, line 45 to col.4, line 8)

Regarding claim 3, Sugiyama discloses wherein the predetermined recording medium is a tape-shaped recording medium capable of recording digital video information (see col.1, lines 8-14 and col.3, lines 12-26).

Regarding claim 4, Sugiyama discloses wherein the recording means records the composite video image and the additional information onto the same recording medium (see col.5, line 50 to col.6, line 18).

Regarding claim 10, the claimed limitations of claim 10 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 11, the claimed limitations of claim 11 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 12, the claimed limitations of claim 12 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 2 above.

Regarding claim 13, the claimed limitations of claim 13 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 3 above.

Regarding claim 14, the claimed limitations of claim 14 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 4 above.

Regarding claim 18, Katsuki further wherein the predetermined condition is a notification by an abnormally sensor associated with the video image that detects an emergency (see col.25, lines 55-63). Here examiner considers a shock or an external disturbance given to the main body of the video camera as an emergency.

Regarding claim 19, the claimed limitations of claim 19 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 18 above.

Regarding claim 20, the claimed limitations of claim 20 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 18 above.

4. Claims 5,7,8&16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al in view of Katsuki et al and further in view of Kono et al (US 5,187,589)).

Regarding claim 5, Sugiyama and Katsuki fail to explicitly disclose wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video supply sources in a time division manner.

Kono et al disclose a recording/reproducing apparatus for television image including simultaneous recording/reproducing of multiple TV signals, wherein the input switches 14 and 15 select first and second TV signals A and B provided by first and second TV tuners 9 and 10, respectively, the output circuit 16 sends out first TV signal A via input switch 14, a video memory circuit 17 performs signal processing for the mixed recording and separated reproducing of the video signals contained in TV signals A and B, an output switch 18 sends out selectively first TV signal A from output circuit 16 and second TV signal B from video memory circuit 17 (see Fig.6; switches 14&15; col.7, lines 24-36), here examiner reads the selective sending out of TV signal A and TV signal B by the output switch 16 as being in a time division manner because there is a time difference between the outputting of TV signal A and the outputting of the TV signal

B. It would have been obvious to further modify Sugiyama with the switching means of Kono which selectively switches the video images of Kono, in order to also selectively switch the video images of Sugiyama.

Regarding claim 7, Kono further discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images outputted from a plurality of cameras (see col.23, line 66 to col.24, line 10).

Regarding claim 8, Kono further discloses wherein the supplied video images are video images intermittently captured by switching the video images outputted from the video cameras in a time division manner ( switches 14&15; col.7, lines 24-36 and col.23, line 66 to col.24, line 10).

Regarding claim 16, the claimed limitations of claim 16 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 7 above.

5. Claims 6&15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al in view of Katsuki et al and further in view of Yamamoto (US 5,469,270).

Regarding claim 6, Sugiyama and Katsuki et al fail to explicitly disclose wherein the additional information includes at least one of supply source information indicative of each of supply sources of the supplied video images, recording data and time information indicative of date and time on/at which each of the video images is

recorded, frame division configuration information indicative of the arrangement and the maximum number of reduced video images in the composite video image, recording apparatus identification information for identifying the video recording apparatus used for recording, and contents information regarding the contents of each of the reduced video images included in the composite video image.

Yamamoto teaches a video editing apparatus for controlling a plurality of video reproducing apparatuses each having a video signal recorded on a recording medium such as a tape comprising a list setting portion for setting the edit decision list showing identification data of recording media which are to be used for a video edit (see Abstract).

It would have been obvious to further modify Sugiyama by realizing Sugiyama with the means to identify recording media, as taught by Yamamoto, since it is well known that adding an identification data to a recording medium, for example, provides the desirable advantage of easily identifying the recording medium.

Regarding claim 15, the claimed limitations of claim 15 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

6. Claims 9&17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al in view of Katsuki and Kono and further in view of Yamamoto (US 5,469,270).

Regarding claim 9, the claimed limitations of claim 9 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

Regarding claim 17, the claimed limitations of claim 17 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 6 above.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from this examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is (703) 308-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry)

and (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington. VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

COO

1/5/05

THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER